

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 PRS-01 STR-04 /048 W
----- 062393

R 092150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3147

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EPAP, CS

SUBJECT: U.S. MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 51112, SAN JOSE 1135

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO REALLOCATE SHORTFALLS IN MEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT SYSTEM WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN CARIBBEAN REGION. THIS DECISION COULD BE OF GREAT POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO MEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE AND A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN PRESERVING AND ENHANCING US RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES.
2. TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION AND PREVENT MOVEMENTS THAT WOULD CIRCUMVENT IT, THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT AN ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL PROVISION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES BE ADDED TO ALL VRS AGREEMENTS: "IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT THE QUANTITY OF MEAT ELIGIBLE FOR SHIPMENT TO THE US UNDER THIS AGREEMENT BY (NAME OF COUNTRY) SHALL BE REDUCED BY ANY INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF BEEF INTO (NAME OF COUNTRY) AS COMPARED TO THE LEVEL OF IMPORTS IN THE BASE PERIOD (1973 OR 1974)."

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3. PROVISION SUGGESTED ABOVE WOULD PREVENT A COUNTRY

FROM, IN EFFECT, ALLOCATING ITS OWN SHORTFALL TO A
NON-HEMISPHERE COUNTRY BY IMPORTING CHEAPER BEEF FROM
OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE IN ORDER TO SHIP MORE OF ITS
OWN BEEF TO THE US MARKET. SUCH A PROVISION WOULD
ALSO ASSURE THAT THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM GO TO
THOSE WHO PRODUCE, SLAUGHTER AND PROCESS CATTLE FOR
THE US MARKET RATHER THAN TO SPECULATORS WHO WOULD
IMPORT CHEAPER BEEF FROM OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE AND
SHIP TO US, OR SHIP TO US LOCAL MEAT THAT WOULD OTHER-
WISE HAVE TO BE CONSUMED LOCALLY.
TODMAN

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